

Lake County Health Services
COVID-19 Ethics Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations
As of March 16th

February 9, 2021

At its first meeting, the committee adopted the following:

Guiding Ethical Principles

1. To achieve maximum community benefit by optimally protecting health and well-being;
2. To ensure that each human life is treated with equal dignity, worth and value, taking into account each individual's personal autonomy;
3. To mitigate the disparities in disease impact on different populations including but not limited to persons of color, seniors, persons with limited access to resources and persons whose voices are less likely to be heard;
4. To consider disease impacts, including those at risk for severe disease and/or death, impacts on hospital capacity and community contagion;
5. To ensure fairness, impartiality and transparency; and
6. To formulate recommendations independent of the PHO based on the best available evidence.

February 16, 2021

The committee deliberated and formed the following recommendations for the Lake County Public Health Officer this week:

Focusing on persons most at risk of death -

Continue to prioritize vaccine to 65+ and Ag workers with emphasis on outreach and addressing logistical details impacting these populations.

Continue to offer vaccine to new persons at homeless shelters.

For this week, hold off on vaccine to food service workers, pending expanded efforts to vaccinate the above priority groups.

The committee readily acknowledges that the situation is very fluid and anticipates that its recommendations will change with each passing week.

February 23, 2021

The committee deliberated and formed the following recommendations for the Lake County Public Health Officer this week:

- (a) Registration/prioritization by the number of daily face-to-face interactions** - The committee acknowledges that this logic underpins the state guidance for prioritization of vaccine and is the basis whereby certain groups (such as Ag workers) are being prioritized now. The committee agrees that it would be challenging to implement a survey system

locally in which citizens would provide their own info on their face-to-face interactions in order to be prioritized by Public Health.

- (b) Massage Therapists** – The committee requests that Public Health attempt to obtain the number of massage therapists active to enable further consideration of the impacts of prioritizing vaccine for this group.
- (c) Grocers** – The committee agrees that grocery workers and restaurant workers are essential to the food supply and should be prioritized. The committee requests that Public Health attempt to obtain the number of such active workers to enable further consideration of the impacts of prioritizing vaccine for this group. The committee recommends, since vaccine supply is still limited, that Public Health start by offering vaccine appointments in limited blocks to this group, enabling those with the most acute need to be prioritized, opening up further as supply becomes available.
- (d) County Workers**
 - Disaster Service Workers – The committee acknowledges that DSW’s presently serving on the front line in support of Public Health operations is now being offered vaccine. For additional DSW’s, who may be called upon to shelter evacuated citizens during wildfire season (as has been needed mid-summer through late fall each year since 2015), the committee agrees that when that time comes, this group should be prioritized.
 - Air Quality workers – During the committee’s 02/16/21 meeting, Dr. Pace advised that, per state guidance, the concept of “essential worker” no longer applies for vaccine prioritization and the focus is now on food and ag workers. Government workers, for example, who are not in high priority groups (such as EMS, front line law enforcement) will not be prioritized per state guidance and will receive vaccine when there is sufficient supply to open up to all persons ages 18-64. The committee finds that Air Quality workers are among this class of government workers who will receive vaccine when there is sufficient supply to open up to all persons ages 18-64.
- (e) Public Defenders** - The committee requests that Public Health attempt to obtain info on the level of court activity presently taking place to enable further consideration of the impacts of prioritizing vaccine for this group.

SUMMARY: The committee reaffirms its earlier recommendations:

Focusing on persons most at risk of death -

Continue to prioritize vaccine to 65+ and Ag workers with emphasis on outreach and addressing logistical details impacting these populations.

Continue to offer vaccine to new persons at homeless shelters.

Food Service Workers (i.e., grocers and restaurants) – see (c) above for updated recommendation.

The committee continues to acknowledge that the situation is very fluid and anticipates that its recommendations will change with each passing week.

March 2, 2021

The committee deliberated and formed the following recommendations for the Lake County Public Health Officer this week:

- (a) Jail inmates** – Consistent with earlier recommendations, the committee recommends vaccine be prioritized for persons living in congregate situations, including jail inmates.
- (b) Public Defenders** - The committee requests that Public Health attempt to obtain info on the level of court activity presently taking place to enable further consideration of the impacts of prioritizing vaccine for this group.
- (c) Intellectually disabled/medically fragile adults** – The committee notes that this group is being prioritized, according to state guidance, starting 03/15/21.
- (d) Food Service and Ag workers** – Responding to an inquiry as to why this group is being prioritized given that the virus is not known to be passed through food, the committee notes that current indicators show that the spread primarily occurs through face-to-face contact and this group has been prioritized, according to state guidance, on that basis.
- (e) County Workers** – The committee has considered requests concerning Air Quality workers, Disaster Service Workers providing sheltering services and staff to the Emergency Operations Center. The committee notes that according to updated state guidance released 03/01/21, these groups are now eligible for vaccine and should be allowed to begin scheduling appointments. The committee recommends that Public Health continue to prioritize persons over 65 and Ag and food service workers, and if possible, to reserve vaccine appointments for this priority group.
- (f) Clergy** – The committee recommends that vaccine be prioritized for clergy who, in the normal course of their duties, regularly visit hospitals, jails, nursing homes, hospice patients, elderly, ill patients, mortuaries and have frequent contact with the community in general including ag workers.

SUMMARY: The committee continues to reaffirm its earlier recommendations:

Focusing on persons most at risk of death -

Continue to prioritize vaccine to 65+ and Ag workers with emphasis on outreach and addressing logistical details impacting these populations.

Continue to offer vaccine to new persons at homeless shelters.

Food Service Workers (i.e., grocers and restaurants) – see above for updated recommendation.

The committee continues to acknowledge that the situation is very fluid and anticipates that its recommendations will change with each passing week.

March 9, 2021

The committee deliberated and formed the following recommendations for the Lake County Public Health Officer this week:

(a) Public Defenders - The committee reviewed the response of the Lake County Superior Court where in-person hearings for criminal matters are ongoing and jury trials will be resumed shortly. Based on this information, the committee recommends Public Defenders and District Attorney staff who are scheduled to appear in-person for criminal matters should now be considered eligible for vaccine. This recommendation does not extend to office workers and support staff who are not required to appear in court. The committee also recommends that the court, in its outreach for jurors, should encourage fully vaccinated citizens to step up and serve, in order to best protect the jury pool.

(b) Persons aged 18-64 with medical conditions - The committee also considered whether, starting 03/15/21, such persons should be required to provide verification of eligibility. In the interest of preserving limited doses to those that are deemed eligible per state guidelines, the committee recommends that persons in this group provide a simple statement from their physician indicating that they are eligible for vaccine when they check in at the site.